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## Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group

### CBD BUG

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The Right Honourable Graham Quirk  
Lord Mayor of Brisbane  
GPO Box 2287  
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Lord Mayor

This letter seeks your implementation of free-of-charge cross-river ferry services for cyclists between the Norman Park to New Farm Park and Bulimba to Teneriffe terminals. The proposal is to allow cyclists riding between the Brisbane Central Business District (CBD) and the eastern suburbs to avoid the dangerous footpath along Wynnum Road

The objective of this approach is to create a "virtual bridge" for cyclists that will link the eastern suburbs to the Brisbane CBD. This approach is proposed as an interim solution to remove eastern suburb cyclists from some of the high risk roads and footpaths they currently use and should remain active until the eastern suburbs cycling commuter routes are installed, the corridors for which are currently under investigation by Council.

As background on this matter - residents of Brisbane's eastern suburbs currently experience very poor service levels in terms of safe and direct bikeway connections to the Brisbane CBD. This lack of appropriate transport infrastructure continues to result in negligible to low levels of cycling between the CBD and Brisbane's eastern suburbs.

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data collated by the Department of Transport and Main Roads indicates negligible cycling level growth in the eastern suburbs since 2005. Based on ABS 2011 Census data examples of eastern suburbs within easy cycling distance of the CBD (<8km) where cycling continues to languish behind other Brisbane regions in terms of cycling's share of trips to work include: Murarrie (0.9%), Carindale (1.1%), Carina (1.7%) and Carina Heights (1.6%).

In stark contrast cycling's share of trips between the CBD and Brisbane's southern and western suburbs along the SE Bikeway and Bicentennial and Centenary Motorway have demonstrated pleasing growth during the years following the installation of quality, off-road bike rider infrastructure – proving again that "if you build it they will come".

Wynnum Road presently provides a particular hazard for cyclists, with one particularly dangerous section being adjacent to the Balmoral Cemetery, with another between the Canning Bridge and Wynnum Road's intersection with Hawthorne Road.

A reason commonly provided by people for not cycling is their concern regarding safely sharing road space with motor vehicles. For much of inner Wynnum Road this is a concern even for experienced cyclists, while the previously mentioned section between the Canning Bridge and Hawthorne Road is also notorious for its concealed driveways being hazardous for cyclists wanting to avoid on-road riding.

To ensure the provision of these free-of-charge ferry services is limited to genuine users it is proposed that access is restricted to people travelling with both a bike and helmet.

It has been noted that Council has already created the precedent of providing free-of-charge ferry travel through its establishment during 2012 of the highly successful CityHopper ferry service. The CBD BUG suggests this targeted extension of the service is warranted by safety concerns arising from poor bike rider infrastructure.

The CBD BUG would appreciate your support for this proposal. We would be happy to meet with you to discuss it further.

I look forward to your response on this matter.

Yours sincerely



Paul French  
Co-convenor  
Brisbane CDB BUG

26 March 2013

Cc: Cr Shayne Sutton, Morningside Ward  
Cr Adrian Schrunner, Chandler Ward  
Cr Ryan Murphy, Doboy Ward  
Cr Helen Abrahams, The Gabba Ward